

Tuition rate for certain scholarship students
(SB 1444 by Jones/ Delco)

DIGEST: SB 1444 would have allowed a nonresident or foreign student who earned a competitive academic scholarship or stipend and was accepted in a clinical and biomedical research training program leading to a doctor of medicine and doctor of philosophy degrees to pay in-state tuition.

GOVERNOR'S
REASON
FOR VETO:

The governor said that "the present fee structure for state-supported institutions of higher education recognizes the policy that these institutions are established primarily for the benefit of Texas citizens. I agree with this policy and am therefore opposed to changing the fee structure for in the manner contemplated by Senate Bill 1444."

SPONSOR'S
VIEW:

Rep. Wilhelmina Delco said she was puzzled as to why the governor vetoed SB 1444 and that his reason is inconsistent with current tuition policy. At present the state allows in-state tuition for nonresident and foreign students who are teaching assistants or research assistants and who have earned certain scholarships. Further, the governor signed HB 2181, the higher education omnibus bill that had an amendment by Sen. Santiesteban that will allow certain Mexican nationals to pay in-state tuition to go to five border schools in Texas.

This bill was aimed at recruiting the top 25 students in the country as a nucleus for the biotechnology program at the University of Texas at Dallas, said Rep. Delco. These students would be getting both a Ph.D. and M.D. degrees. Rep. Delco said that it is in the best interest of Texas to attract the best and brightest minds in the country to come to Texas to get advanced degrees. It has also been proven that students frequently remain in the state in which they receive their degree. Texas cannot afford a brain drain and must do everything it can to attract the best students.

NOTES: SB 1444 passed the House on the Consent Calendar and was not analyzed in a Daily Floor Report.